

English A Course Introduction

Instructor: Scott Bingham

A: Course Intro

Welcome! My name is Scott Bingham and I will be your instructor for this Reading Module of your English A course. My goal in teaching this course is to help you become better readers. Reading, like practicing a sport or playing a musical instrument, is a complex activity and you become better readers the same way you get better at doing any other activity - practice, practice, practice. Therefore, in this class you will read and read and read. With reading, however, you can also improve by thinking about HOW you learn and HOW you can make your learning experiences better. The plans and activities you do to be a better reader are called "**reading strategies**" (読解) and they include any activity you do to help improve your ability to read and understand English reading material. Although many of you might already be using strategies, in this class you will learn and practice a variety of strategies that will not only help you in your studies here at MMU, but also throughout your lives.

In-Class Work

In class every week, you will read one chapter in your textbook, "For Your Information 2." Each chapter has one reading passage and several activities designed to help you improve your reading ability. You will write your answers to the textbook activities on a daily worksheet which you will hand in to me. To complete the textbook activities, you will work in groups of 4 to 5 students. Therefore, your group work will be a very important aspect of this class, so starting next week, think very carefully about who you want to sit with. In your group work, I would like you to try to use as much English as you can. I don't expect you to be able to speak *only* English, but I expect you to try.

Also, at the beginning of every class, you will have a Vocabulary Quiz. On this quiz, you will have to write down ten of the new words you added to your New Word List of your Reading Journal. Then, you will write the Japanese meaning, and two related words. You will have ten minutes to finish the quiz and everything must be done from MEMORY - without using any notes.

Out-of-Class Work

In addition to the work you do in class every week, you will also do "**extensive reading**" outside of class. Extensive reading means that you are required to read English books of YOUR OWN CHOOSING outside of class. These books will come from the **graded reader** section of the MMU Library. Graded readers are books suited for your level of reading ability. If you are a weak reader, you should choose easier books to read. If you are strong reader, you should choose more challenging books. You will be expected to read **10** graded readers for this class (or 1 book every week). For each book you read, you will also complete a **Reading Journal** entry as a record of your reading practice. I will talk more about the Reading Journal later.

Both the In-Class Work and the Out-of-Class Work are NOT optional and MUST BE FINISHED on the due date. Ladies and Gentlemen, you are university students now and that means you WILL hand in your work ON TIME. *Serious* sickness is the only excuse for not finishing your work. Part-time jobs, club activities, going on dates with your "darling", getting drunk with your classmates, etc., are NOT acceptable reasons for not doing your homework. Any work you hand in late will automatically lose **50%** of the points.

If you miss a class, you need to go to the following website and download the prints for that week. I expect you to do this on your own before the next class.

• English A Reading Module Website: <http://mmuenga.blogspot.com/>

B: Materials Needed

Please bring these to class EVERY WEEK.

- class textbook "For Your Information 2"
- an **A4**-size folder with your name, class number, and student number printed on the front.
- good Japanese/English, English/Japanese dictionaries
- your brain and a sense of humor and creativity.

C: Grading

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following components.

- 50%** Reading Journal
- 40%** **Weekly Worksheets and Weekly Vocabulary Quiz**
- 10%** Final Exam (in July)

*** Attendance will be taken every week. You can only miss 4 classes. If you miss more than 4 classes, you will fail and have to take the class next year. Tardiness (more than five minutes late) will also be noted. If you are tardy two times, that will count as one missed class. I start class when the bell rings, so be in your seat ready to start.